

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Point Pleasant School  
other names/site number 017-5010

**2. Location**

street & number State Route 654 Laurel Fork Road not for publication N/A  
city or town Laurel Fork vicinity X  
state Virginia code VA county Carroll code 035 Zip 24352

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination      request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets      does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant      nationally      statewide X locally. (      See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official  
**Virginia Department of Historic Resources**  
State or Federal agency and bureau

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

In my opinion, the property      meets      does not meet the National Register criteria. (      See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:

     entered in the National Register

     See continuation sheet.

     determined eligible for the National Register

     See continuation sheet.

     determined not eligible for the National Register

     removed from the National Register

     other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

---

**5. Classification**

---

**Ownership of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

**Category of Property** (Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>  1  </u>	<u>  0  </u> buildings
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u> sites
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u> structures
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u> objects
<u>  1  </u>	<u>  0  </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register   0  

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)   N/A  

---

**6. Function or Use**

---

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:   Education   Sub:   school    
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:   Vacant   Sub:   not in use    
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

---

**7. Description**

---

**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

  no style    
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation   concrete    
roof   metal    
walls   wood    
other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

---

## 8. Statement of Significance

**Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations** (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions) Education, Architecture

**Period of Significance** 1911-1949

**Significant Dates** 1911

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) n/a

**Cultural Affiliation** n/a

**Architect/Builder** unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

### Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

### Primary Location of Additional Data

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

\_\_\_ Other State agency  
\_\_\_ Federal agency  
\_\_\_ Local government  
\_\_\_ University  
\_\_\_ Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources

---

**10. Geographical Data**

---

**Acree of Property** less than 1 acre

**UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	17	539567E	4064558N	B	17	539595E	4064558N	C	17	539595E	4064535N
D	17	539567E	4064535N								

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

---

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

---

name/title: Michael J. Pulice, Architectural Historian  
Organization: Virginia Department of Historic Resources date July 3, 2007  
street & number: 1030 Penmar Ave SE telephone 540-857-7586  
city or town Roanoke state VA zip code 24013

---

**Additional Documentation**

---

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

---

**Property Owner**

---

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Betty Jean Hayes  
street & number 216 Dry Twig Road telephone 276-398-2994  
city or town Laurel Fork state VA zip code 243452

=====

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Point Pleasant School  
Carroll County, Virginia**

**Section   7   Page   1**

---

## **7. Summary and Site Description**

Point Pleasant School lies at 2800 feet above sea level in the mountainous physiographic province of the Blue Ridge, within a relatively remote, rural area of southwestern Virginia. Carroll County occupies a section of the Blue Ridge Province called the Blue Ridge Plateau, which is characterized by steep hills but few large mountains that tower above the surrounding landscape. The school property is located about two miles northeast of the small crossroads community of Laurel Fork, near the east end of Carroll County, a few miles from the Floyd County line. It is reached by traveling 1.1 miles north from U.S. Highway 58 on Laurel Fork Road (Route 654). The tiny one-room schoolhouse is situated approximately twenty feet from the edge of Laurel Fork Road on the east side of the road's junction with (Route 659) Bear Creek Rd, which forks off to the northwest. The Laurel Fork Primitive Baptist Church and historic cemetery both lie adjacent, to the north of the schoolhouse. Just to the southwest, across Laurel Fork Road, is the Nestor Cemetery, which is so-labeled on topographic maps.

There are no secondary resources associated with the school, although just behind the school is the men's outhouse used by the Laurel Fork Church, next door. The women's outhouse is on the opposite side of the church. Neither outhouse is included within the nominated parcel.

Point Pleasant School is nominated under Criterion A in the area of Education and Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The school possesses excellent integrity as an example of an early-20th-century one-room schoolhouse that embodies distinctive characteristics of the building type and the period in which it was constructed. It is a rare survival of a building type that largely disappeared from the American landscape after outliving its useful purpose to school systems. The period of significance covers the date of construction through the building's final use as a school (1911-1949).

## **Detailed Description**

The Point Pleasant School is a one-story, weatherboarded, frame building with a rectangular footprint measuring approximately thirty-four feet by thirty-seven feet. The schoolhouse has a nearly pyramidal, steeply-pitched hipped roof covered with painted standing-seam sheet metal. A slender, square, brick stove flue pierces the front west side of the roof, about two feet below the apex. The entire building rests on intermittent concrete piers rather than a continuous foundation. Between the stud framing and the weatherboards are one-inch by six-inch diagonal-board sheathing, which was common in schoolhouses and other frame buildings of the period. It increased the shear strength of the building and

**Section   7   Page   2**

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Point Pleasant School  
Carroll County, Virginia**

---

helped keep weather and pests out of the building. The windows are six-over-six double-hung sash. The north elevation has four window openings, two of which are currently boarded over. The only means of ingress/egress is the single-leaf door near the northwest corner on the front (west) elevation. The sole window (six-over-six) on the front elevation is toward the southwest corner of the building. There are no windows on either the east or south elevations. A wood stove once stood near the center of the classroom. Upon entering the building, a large cloak closet (or very small cloak room) is immediately on the right hand side. The cloak closet ceiling has the only hatchway to the attic. Both the classroom and the cloak closet are treated with original whitewashed, face-nailed, flush boards on the walls and ceilings. Some of the boards exhibit hand-plane markings, which are most noticeable on the boards near the entrance. The blackboard that occupies much of the south wall and the south part of the east wall—the two walls with no windows—consists of nothing more than black paint on ordinary wall boards, yet chalk worked perfectly well to write on it. The ceilings are about ten feet in height. The flooring, of original one-and-one-half-inch tongue-and-groove boards, remains in good condition.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Point Pleasant School  
Carroll County, Virginia**

---

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Summary and Justification of Criteria**

The Point Pleasant School was built in 1911 for students from the local community, grades one through seven. Although its doors were closed in 1948-9 when Carroll County schools were consolidated for the first time, the building still stands as an important vestige of the early educational history of the county. Schoolhouses such as Point Pleasant fulfilled important roles in the education and civic life of rural communities in Virginia for generations of students. The school is therefore nominated under Criterion A in the area of Education, for its vital role in the early period of public education in the remote, agrarian community. It is also nominated under Criterion C in the area of Architecture, as an exceptionally well-preserved example of an early-20th-century one-room schoolhouse that embodies distinctive characteristics of the building type and the period in which it was constructed. It is a rare survival of a building type that largely disappeared from the American landscape after outliving its useful purpose to school systems. The school possesses excellent historic integrity. A photograph taken in 1927 shows that the school has never been altered in any way. The period of significance for its educational history is 1911 through 1949.

**Historical Background**

The history of education in county public schools in Virginia began in 1870 when the public school system was created, employing mostly one-room schools. Very few one-room schools appear to have been constructed after 1910, Point Pleasant School being a rare exception. By the 1880s, graded schools of two or three rooms were being built in more populated areas for students, grouped by class and age. Outdoor privies were eliminated in most consolidated schools built in the 1920s, but Point Pleasant School was never fitted with indoor plumbing of any kind.<sup>1</sup>

The property for the Point Pleasant School was donated by Rueben and Lorain Nester, "to be forever used for community services." The community used the land to build both the Laurel Fork Primitive Baptist Church and the first Point Pleasant School in the mid-19th century, but after some years, both buildings were destroyed by fire. The school was rebuilt by the community in 1911, and the county supplied the teachers. William Canon "Caney" Jackson was the first teacher. Some of the other teachers were Laura E. Gardner (1923), Lelia E. Jackson (1924), and Pattie Pearce (1937). Ruth Nester Hall, who taught at the school in the 1930s, remembered that three basic supplies were given to the teacher by Carroll County Public Schools: a broom, a bucket, and a dipper. Eula Mae Spencer, a great-granddaughter of Rueben and Loraine Nester, recalled, "Boys chopped the [fire] wood and girls brought

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Point Pleasant School  
Carroll County, Virginia**

---

[drinking] water from the spring." The water table still stands in a corner of the schoolhouse today. Mrs. Betty Jean Hayes, who was a student at the time the school closed its doors in 1949, explained that parents would take turns supplying the firewood. The smaller boys brought the wood in, but the bigger boys sometimes had to chop it. To help students heat their lunches, the teacher supplied a large bread pan filled with water, which was laid on the hot wood stove. Also in the schoolhouse is the large bell that was rung to call the children in to school, but also when there was an accident or death in the community. Because the school sat next to the church, students were dismissed from classes during funerals. Spencer mentioned the pie suppers at the school, when boys tried to outbid each other for a pie and a young lady. In 1993, forty alumnae and former teachers gathered at the school to share their fond recollections, some of which were written down for posterity. Some of the other former teachers were present, including Mr. Guy Jackson and Mr. Steve McGrady.<sup>2</sup>

Today, the schoolhouse appears to be unique because it may be the only one of its kind left standing in the region, but at one time there were many others in similar locations across the Commonwealth of Virginia and across the country. Accounts related by former students from one-room schoolhouses in rural areas are typically similar in their descriptive recollections of day-to-day school life. The school buildings may not have all looked alike, but they shared an essential role in the lives of the students and the communities they served.

Endnotes

1. McCleary, 10-11; Kern, 2-3.
2. Willis, "How School was before 1920"; Bowman, "Point Pleasant School Alums Recall Rituals of the One-room Schoolhouse"; Betty Hayes, Hand-written recollections provided to the author.



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Point Pleasant School  
Carroll County, Virginia**

---

**9. Bibliography**

Willis, Ninevah. Written recollections (unpublished) entitled "How School was before 1920." Willis (born 1915, now deceased) was a Carroll County native and public school teacher.

Carroll County Deed Book 12, page 517.

Bowman, B.J. "Point Pleasant School Alums Recall Rituals of the One-room Schoolhouse." The Carroll News, Wednesday, July 17, 1996.

Hayes, Betty. Hand-written recollections provided to the author.

\_\_\_\_\_. Personal communication with the author, March, 2007.

John Kern, "Thematic Evaluation of County Public School Buildings in Southwest Virginia." Roanoke Regional Preservation Office, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, October, 2000.

McCleary, Ann. "Public Schools in Augusta County, Virginia, 1870-1940." National Register of Historic Places, thematic nomination report, 1984. Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia, VDHR File 07-1175.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Point Pleasant School  
Carroll County, Virginia**

---

**10. Geographical Data**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of the nominated parcel includes only the school and the immediate grounds around it, as shown on the accompanying GIS-produced aerial image. The boundaries are described by the following UTM points:

- A. 17 539567E 4064558N
- B. 17 539595E 4064558N
- C. 17 539595E 4064535N
- D. 17 539567E 4064535N

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated parcel boundary corresponds exactly to that of the original school parcel and does not include the surrounding property that contributes to the adjacent church and cemetery.

**Photographs**

Point Pleasant School (DHR #017-5010)

Carroll County, Virginia

Date: February 2007

Photographer: Michael J. Pulice

Digital Images stored at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources in Richmond.

1. School exterior, facing southeast.
2. School exterior, facing east-northeast.
3. School exterior, facing west.
4. School interior, south wall/ chalkboard.
5. School exterior, facing front of school/ cloak closet.